Dr. Albert Bregman

CPA D.O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology as a Science
2004

Dr. Bregman's research, carried out at McGill for close to 34 years, has become world-renowned among hearing scientists for probing the ability of the human auditory system to cope with complex sound environments. Dr. Bregman's research addresses the central question of how the human auditory system segregates sounds from one another when numerous sound sources are sounding simultaneously — how we perceive and make sense of auditory information in an everyday situation. He defined and named the field of "Auditory Scene Analysis," and has developed a theoretical framework that unifies hundreds of diverse findings in auditory perception.

Despite never having been trained in auditory perception, Dr. Bregman has been called "the father of auditory scene analysis" and his book, entitled *Auditory Scene Analysis: The Perceptual Organization of Sounds* is considered the foremost theory of auditory perception and cognition. It is a classic treatise in modern hearing science and is one of the most cited references in hearing science. This book provided a bridge between basic psychophysics and the "higher" area of speech and music perception, two fields that had hitherto been separate. His thinking transcended what were traditional divisions and allowed a common vocabulary and ground which fostered new areas of research.

The impact of his pioneering and original work has gone beyond cognition and perception and has been noticed by researchers in various fields all of whom began to see new and revolutionary applications for his theories. It is unquestionable that Albert Bregman's ideas will continue to foster new research in years to come.

Dr. Bregman was brought to McGill in 1965 as its first cognitive psychologist. He is known to be extremely generous and is considered a role model for young scientists, and has been twice nominated for the David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Teaching.